

The Social Security Subcommittee intends to move forward with a May hearing. In addition, SSA will be holding its field hearings in the next 60 days. With the addition of expert consultations, as proposed in this legislation, the public should have some degree of confidence that an appropriate balance has been struck between efficient access to personal Social Security records and the privacy and security of that data.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH A. LeFANTE,
FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant, Joseph A. LaFante of Bayonne. Congressman LeFante's death at age 68 was a loss for the State of the New Jersey and its residents.

Joseph A. LaFante grew up in his beloved Bayonne. When he turned 16, he started to work full-time at a manufacturing plant. As a young man, he became involved with unions and attended a 3-year study program at St. Peter's Institute of Industrial Relations. He graduated from the New Jersey Real Estate Institute in 1957.

Congressman LeFante had an exemplary devotion to the Bayonne community. In his first experience with politics, he served as Bayonne Charter Commissioner. Then he went on to the city council and the local board of school estimate. He was elected to the New Jersey State Assembly in 1969 and served 7 years, culminating in his being elected speaker of the assembly. In 1976, he was elected to become a Member of the 95th Congress. After his service in the House of Representatives, he returned to politics in New Jersey as Gov. Brendan Byrne's commissioner of community affairs. Although he had an unsuccessful run in the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate in 1982, he continued to serve the citizens of New Jersey in the administrations of Governor Kean and Governor Florio. Throughout this time, he operated Public Service Furniture, a furniture store in Bayonne. In the past few years, he worked on his furniture businesses before his retirement.

Joe LeFante never forgot where he came from, was a man of good ethics, kept his word and was a man of principle. He had a passion for using government to help others, and he used that passion to improve the lives of the people he represented.

Mr. Speaker, it is honor to have had such a distinguished public servant living in my district. He always kept the best interests of the residents of Bayonne, his district, the State of New Jersey, and the Nation in mind when serving in his numerous offices. And he served those he represented with distinction.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues an article that

appeared in the March 9, 1997, edition of the State, highlighting the national honors that have been achieved recently by the University of South Carolina. The University is attaining prominence in a variety of areas of national and international importance. I would like to commend the faculty and students of the University of South Carolina on their commitment to excellence.

The article follows:

[From the State, Mar. 9, 1997]

USC RANKINGS SHOWCASE S.C.

(By Fred Monk)

The University of South Carolina basketball team is drawing national attention to the university and Columbia.

The impact of its performance isn't lost on USC professors, who are citing with pride the basketball team's achievement in discussions on academic excellence.

While USC's No. 4 basketball ranking has fans in a frenzy, other rankings are noteworthy.

The blend of academic and athletic performance is lifting USC's stature internationally.

Recently, USC received two important recognitions.

Its graduate international business programs were rated No. 2 in the nation by a U.S. News & World Report poll.

Since the poll's inception, USC has ranked No. 1 or No. 2.

This is no small feat, even though USC was knocked off the top spot by the inclusion last year of the American Graduate School of International Management, also known as the Thunderbird school, whose sole focus is international business.

USC is the only public institution in the top five. It leads Columbia University, the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard.

In February, USC received another Top Five national honor—one equal in university circles to the basketball team's national ranking, said Don Greiner, USC's interim provost.

For the second consecutive year, USC was awarded the Hesburgh Certificate of Excellence, this time for its faculty/student development program.

Father Hesburgh's name is synonymous with Notre Dame, a university known for its athletic and academic excellence.

Other recent national honors USC has received included:

No. 1 ranking in the Southeast and Top Five nationally by professional journals of the geography department's programs.

A Top Five national ranking for the pharmacy department.

The college of journalism's public relations and advertising programs are ranked 12th and 13th in the nation by U.S. News.

U.S. News also ranks USC's psychology doctoral program as third best in the nation.

USC's Naval ROTC program received the nation's highest academic ranking by the Naval Education and Training Command.

The college of business was cited by Success magazine as one of the 25 best in the nation for producing entrepreneurs.

These are a few of many significant achievements USC has been cited for recently.

But there's another important aspect to recognition.

Coach Eddie Fogler crafted a basketball team around South Carolina Talent—nine of the 11 players are from South Carolina.

In academics as well as athletics, USC is trying to keep the best and the brightest at home, Greiner said.

Through its Carolina Scholars and Honors College program, USC is going after the best students in the state.

And it has scored well. The 1996 average Carolina Scholars SAT score was 1488.

But competition for South Carolina's best—in academics and athletics—is keen.

Some South Carolina high schools don't even include USC when recommending universities for their top students.

With a continued focus on an investment in academic as well as athletic excellence, USC's recognition will grow. And so will its ability to recruit talent.

Most important, the impact will be felt across South Carolina.

HONORING THE TRICKLE UP PROGRAM

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my congressional colleagues to join me in honoring the Trickle Up Program for the outstanding job they have done to increase the possibility and opportunity for self-sufficiency amid the world's poorest populations. I hereby submit for inclusion into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the 1996 annual report.

The Trickle Up Program offers low-income people opportunity for income and self employment through entrepreneurship. In the past 18 years, more than 58,000 micro-enterprises have been started or expanded in 114 countries with support from Trickle Up. In 1996, 6,738 businesses were launched or expanded in 51 countries, benefiting 24,899 entrepreneurs and over 100,000 dependents. Eighty-two percent of the enterprises begun in 1996 are family owned, and 80% are the entrepreneurs' main source of income. Fifty-nine percent of the entrepreneurs are women.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Africa: 2,314 micro-enterprises in 26 countries. In partnership with 126 local partners, Trickle Up helped start or expand businesses among the very poor, including refugees in Sierra Leone, displaced people in Liberia, people living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda, and families of streetchildren in Ethiopia. An exciting new partnership with the United Nations Volunteers was launched in Mozambique. The Peace Corps was an active partner in Africa, helping to start micro-enterprises in Mali, Benin, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Sao Tome, and Togo. Many low-income entrepreneurs were reached by community-based organizations in Zaire, Tanzania, and Madagascar.

Asia: 2,970 micro-enterprises in 12 countries. Trickle Up continued to work in the poorest countries as well as those recovering from war or confronted with political dissent. In India the program was focused on isolated rural communities in Bihar and urban slum dwellers in Calcutta. Families in the far western region of Nepal were helped by UN Volunteers. In Bangladesh Trickle Up worked with women's organizations and tribal groups, and in China pursued initiatives linking environmental conservation with sustainable development. A new partnership was forged in Afghanistan with the World Food Programme, a UN agency.

Americas: 1,442 businesses in 9 countries. Micro-enterprises were started by single mothers and disabled people in Guatemala, mothers of malnourished children in Haiti, teenagers in Peruvian shantytowns, and Bolivian families in the Andes. Trickle Up often serves as the first step to business development among the poorest: 25% of one-